

second, the estimates made by Rickman, Farr, Brownlee and Griffiths for the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Griffiths's hypotheses of the decline in mortality in the eighteenth century and the possible causes of such a decline are then examined critically in three papers by Marshall Habakkuk, and McKeown and Brown. The last of these is particularly stimulating. The authors' main theme is the examination of the possible influence of medical science on mortality in the eighteenth century, and they reach the challenging conclusion that an extension of medical services at that time would have been more likely to produce a rise than a fall in mortality. In the section of their paper in which they discuss the possible influence of the birth rate, however, McKeown and Brown are on rather weaker ground. Statements such as "*Coitus interruptus* . . . to be effective requires more self-control than is usually credited to the majority of people" are open to dispute; so are their conclusions on the potential effect of changes in age at marriage. Detailed studies of particular areas are provided in the papers by Eversley on an area in Worcestershire and by Chambers on Nottingham and the Vale of Trent; and in an essay on "The Changing Adequacy of English Registration, 1690-1837", Professor Krause of Rutgers University puts forward the view that the general quality of the parish registers deteriorated during the eighteenth century.

Part III is concerned with Europe and the United States, and comprises eleven contributions: four are devoted to France, and the others to Ireland, Scandinavia, Finland, Italy, Barmen (a small town in western Germany), Flanders and the United States. The French studies include a paper of outstanding interest and value by M. Louis Henry, wherein he summarizes the principal features of the recent analyses of parish registers in France. We are also given an English translation of the paper by M. Jean Bourgeois-Pichat on the evolution of the population of France since the eighteenth century, which was first published in *Population* in 1951. His reconstructions of the patterns of fertility, mortality and age-sex distributions in the nineteenth century are of great value; but his extrapolations into the eighteenth century are

based on rather shaky assumptions. His conclusion that the long-term decline in French fertility began somewhere about the year 1770 has not been fully corroborated by the studies of parish registers described by M. Henry, although the practice of birth control was undoubtedly spreading among certain sections of the population, principally the nobility, during the eighteenth century. The other chapters devoted to France consist of a study of the data available for the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries by Professor Goubert and a discussion by M. Meuvret of the relationships between on the one hand the famines and epidemics of the Ancien Régime and on the other the fluctuations in fertility and mortality.

Professor Glass and Dr. Eversley are to be congratulated in bringing together in one volume such a large range of valuable studies. It should prove indispensable to all students both of demography and of economic history. Not only does it bring out the salient points of recent research, but it also indicates the lines along which future investigation should be directed, and it should thus provide effective stimulus to such research.

J. G. C. BLACKER

United Nations General Principles for National Programmes of Population Projections as Aids to Development Planning. New York, 1965. Pp. vi+60. Price 75 cents (HMSO, 5s. 6d.).

THIS MANUAL, WHICH should perhaps be regarded as a short introductory textbook for the developing countries, was planned at the 1961 session of the UN Population Commission. In 1963 and 1964 it was sent in draft to various agencies, institutions and individual experts and subsequently it was revised, in the light of their observations, before publication.

About one-half of the text consists of a very useful and thorough bibliography, classified according to the different aspects of the subject. The remainder of the book describes the various types of projections, and the general considerations underlying their preparation and use. Technique is not dealt with, and there are no examples; thus the exposition cannot in any sense be regarded as complete, but at least the

stage is properly set for a rational approach to the understanding and interpretation of projections. For example, the single page devoted to the choice of a time-span explains how for some purposes it is advantageous to look far ahead while for others only the next few years need be contemplated. Similarly the value of a set of alternative projections and the best concepts for a range of such a set are expounded succinctly and clearly.

P. R. C.

SOCIOLOGY

Hobhouse, L. T. *Sociology and Philosophy: A Centenary Collection of Essays and Articles.* Preface by **Sydney Caine.** Introduced by **Morris Ginsberg.** London, 1966. G. Bell for the London School of Economics. Pp. xxvii + 340. Price 45s.

THIS VOLUME CONTAINS twelve essays and articles reprinted from various sources and an interesting introduction by Professor Ginsberg. This reprinting is very welcome; all the papers in the volume are written with the clarity and vigour so characteristic of Hobhouse and can be read with profit to-day. It is a great service to have rescued these writings from the semi-oblivion of encyclopaedias and learned journals and to have made them easily accessible to a wide public. Hobhouse, who died in 1928, was the most outstanding English sociologist during the first quarter of the present century. His work covered a very wide range; he was a scholar in more than one field and he also made notable contributions to the discussion of the social and political problems of his day.

The topic which inspired his main work was that of social development, a topic which, as Professor Ginsberg says, is again attracting attention after having been out of favour for a time. Hobhouse was careful not to equate social development with progress; for him social development was a process of mental learning through experience the course of which had to be traced by establishing the facts while judgement of facts had to be kept distinct from judgement of values. When expounding his view of social development, which can hardly be contested, Hobhouse was concerned in some of his writings (though in none which are included in this

volume) to confute the somewhat crude attempts to interpret social development as having a basis in biological evolution, which were current at the beginning of this century. In this he was fully justified, but from some of his work he gives the impression that he underrated the importance of the genetic endowment of individuals; in any case he did not concern himself with those problems which are of special interest to students of eugenics.

Of the essays in this volume, that on sociology is the one which will probably be of greatest interest to readers of THE EUGENICS REVIEW. This essay, which originally appeared in the *Encyclopaedia of Religion and Ethics* in 1920, sets out the task of sociology as Hobhouse saw it, and can be read with profit by those who work in any of the special social sciences, demography, for instance. His view is summed up in a quotation which Professor Ginsberg extracts from another article, not reprinted here, which appeared in 1908: "General Sociology", he wrote, "is neither a separate science complete in itself before specialism begins, nor is it a mere synthesis of the social sciences consisting in a mechanical juxtaposition of their results. It is rather a vitalizing principle that runs through all social investigations nourishing and nourished by it in turn, stimulating inquiry, correlating results, exhibiting the life of the whole in the parts and returning from the study of the parts to a fuller comprehension of the whole".

A. M. CARR-SAUNDERS

ECONOMICS

Meade, J. E. *The Stationary Economy.* London, 1965. Allen and Unwin. Pp. 238. Price 35s.

ALMOST EXACTLY THIRTY years ago Mr. (as he then was) James Meade published his successful textbook *An Introduction to Economic Analysis and Policy* in which he expounded, at an introductory level, the then new ideas about employment and income, and about imperfect competition. He was concerned to stress especially their implications for policy problems, and he actually used some of the new technical concepts in advocating particular economic policies. This latest volume from Professor